

Marauder Memo - April 11, 2021

Dear Parents & Community -

I hope you and your family enjoyed a good first week of the 4th Nine Weeks and a wonderful, though wet, weekend. There was certainly a boost of energy in the building this past week, with a large number of students returning to in-person learning. A strong number of students stayed virtual or moved from in-person to virtual learning, as well. Regardless of your child's education delivery system, I hope the final quarter of the '20-21 school year is off to a good start.

Here are some of the key reminders for next week:

Drop Everything and Read Day - DEAR Day is Monday, April 12. Team leaders will determine the 30 minutes in the day teachers and students will Drop Everything and Read. Staff members and administrators, both from MVMS and Central Office, will join in the fun. Please guide your students to have a library book (not online source) to read when their team "Drops Everything and Reads" on Monday.

Team Meetings - Counselors and Administrators will engage each Team of students this week in discussions previewing the 4th Nine Weeks. Boys will meet in the Cafeteria and Girls in the Gym. We look forward to engaging our students in conversation about expectations for the final quarter of the '21-22 school year.

I-Learn (practice test and next week) - Please make sure your students are gearing up for the state's I-Learn tests. Students will take practice exams this week ahead of next week's official tests. It is imperative that students keep their Chromebooks charged fully throughout the next two weeks. Please remind your children of that frequently this week and next. Thank you. The Virtual students' testing schedule and format have been shared by Miss Cooper, whom we thank for doing her usual excellent work in leading our testing process.

MVMS Kitchen Table - The MVMS Kitchen Table (aka Homework Help Club) will meet Monday afternoon for any student trying to recover from absences, get extra help with challenging concepts, or find assistance preparing for upcoming tests. Students report to Mr. Crouch's classroom immediately after school and work through 4:30pm. They can be picked up then at the Main Entrance to MVMS.

Principal Transition - Mrs. Tharp, next year's Principal, Miss Cooper, Mr. Brandes, and I have begun the transition process for administrative leadership of the '21-22 school year. Please continue to guide all matters relating to the current year to me, respecting Mrs. Tharp's current

position at MVHS. Any elements that need decisions for next year will certainly include her thoughts and decisions. We are off to a good start with the transition, with a clear focus on providing the best education for our students throughout the rest of this year and the next.

Covid Protocol reminders - We continue to be diligent with our Covid and Mask Guidelines. I know some of you are concerned and/or confused regarding the “Masks Optional” stance of Governor Holcomb and its impact on our protocol at MVMS. I will again emphasize: Mt. Vernon Community Schools will continue with our safeguards, which have been highly effective. Thank you for supporting our high expectations of our students and staff regarding masks, social distancing, and other safety protocols, which include:

- If your child has COVID-19 like symptoms, please keep your student home from school and consider keeping siblings home too.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please inform your school’s health clinic immediately. If you learn that your child has tested positive outside of school hours, please immediately contact the school principal or the corporation nurse at tracy.furnas@mvcsc.k12.in.us or christy.bastin@mvcsc.k12.in.us.
- If anyone in your household is being tested for COVID-19, please keep ALL students at home from school until results are received.
- When your child stays home, or your virtual student is unable to do schoolwork, please call the school’s attendance office.
- If there is any doubt whether a student should attend school, please keep everyone home and call our health clinic for guidance and/or email denise.floyd@mvcsc.k12.in.us.
- [Indiana State COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

For reference, please see the [Covid-19 Screening Checklist](#) and the MVCSC Health & Safety Plan on our www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/COVID webpage.

8th Graders and 4th Nine Weeks - We continue to make plans - which will be Covid-dependent, of course - for the end of the school year. Most of that attention is on celebrating 8th Graders with as “normal” a conclusion to their experience as possible. An after-school dance, field day, staff-vs-students basketball game, and Promotion Ceremony are all in the works for the last weeks of school. For students to participate in the Promotion Ceremony, they will need to have passed the same number of classes for them to be academically eligible for high school activities (no more than one failing grade). We will engage those students in jeopardy after the 3rd Nine Weeks and help guide them to greater success in the 4th. Please help your students in that effort - we certainly want to see all students participate, but know they must earn that privilege. I’ll update you as we clarify dates and details and, of course, make final decisions nearer the events.

Gala - The Mt. Vernon Education Foundation's annual [Gala](#) will be held April 17 at the Downtown Indianapolis Marriott. Final Ticket sales conclude Monday, April 12. You are encouraged to attend and support this organization that supports our schools and your children's educational efforts. Teacher and Staff Members of the Year (Kittie Masters and Lisa Lindman for MVMS) will be awarded that evening, as well, including the District-wide Honorees.

Athletics - Eligibility of Spring Sport athletes will be verified this week after a check of 3rd Nine Weeks grades. Mt. Vernon Middle School has established the following policy for academic eligibility:

1. Academic eligibility will be checked at the end of each academic quarter. *Accordingly, Spring Sports eligibility for the 4th Quarter (Spring Sports) by 3rd Quarter grades.*

2. A student who receives two or more failing grades on their quarterly report card will be ineligible from any athletic competition for the entire next quarter. 1st quarter academic eligibility will be determined by the previous 4th quarter report card for 7th and 8th grade student athletes. The athlete will become eligible at the end of the next academic quarter if there are not two or more failing grades on their quarterly report card.

The MVMS Athletic Department reserves the right, at any time, to conduct grade checks on student athletes to determine the academic eligibility for an athletic competition or multiple athletic competitions.

Contest Attendance Policy - For all contests, home and away, this spring, guests are expected to sit with their household unit only. Anyone in attendance is required to wear a mask when unable to socially distance from anyone outside of their household unit. If host schools have more restrictive policies, please observe those in order to remain in attendance at their event.

Monday, April 12

SPRING PICTURES for baseball, softball and track will be after school Monday in the MS Fieldhouse.

Golf pictures will be Thursday, April 22 at Arrowhead Golf Course.

Tuesday, April 13

7th baseball vs Clay MS 5:30pm

7th softball vs Clay MS 5:30pm

8th baseball @ Clay MS 5:30pm

Wednesday, April 14

7th baseball vs Pendleton 5:30pm

7th softball vs Pendleton 5:30pm
8th baseball @ Pendleton 5:30pm

Thursday, April 15

7th softball @ Belzer 5:30pm

MVMS PTO - Locker Shockers are Back! Do you want to surprise your student with a decorated locker to celebrate a birthday, athletic event, or just because? If so, place your order [HERE](#). Please note that a 2-weeks notice is required. Any questions may be directed to mtvernonmiddleschoolpto@gmail.com

1st Day School Supplies - The MVMS PTO has partnered with 1st Day School Supplies so that you may shop for '21-22 school supplies from the comfort of home. All orders will be shipped directly to the school after the Summer break, and a portion of proceeds is returned to the PTO. Use the link below to place your order when the time comes this summer.

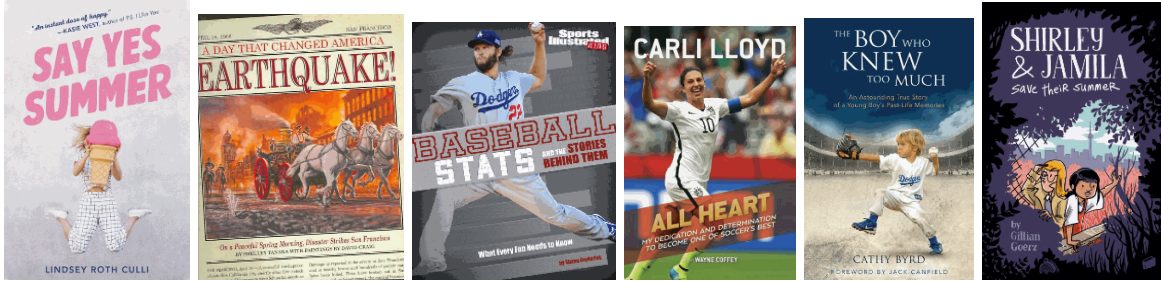


[**1st Day School Supplies**](#)

MV Reads (from our Library Staff):

At the MVCSC libraries, we're getting excited about sunshine and warmer weather, so were focusing on Spring titles this month. They're not all warm and fuzzy beach reads, but here's hoping they help chase the clouds away!

Don't forget to all celebrate **National D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) Day on April 12th**. Along with being the birthday of the late, beloved author Beverly Cleary, on this day families are encouraged to take at least 30 minutes to put aside all distractions and enjoy books together. What will you be reading?



Textbook Adoption - Mr. Scott Shipley, Director of Curriculum, has announced the following Textbook Adoption resources for next school year:

8th - 11th grade *My Perspectives* by Savvas Learning

HS speech - McGraw Hill's text

HS Etymology - *Vocabulary for the College Bound Student*

6th and 7th grade will keep the novel fee and adopt *Scholastic Scope*, a literary magazine.

Parents and community members are welcome to preview the selected materials in the administrative building board room Monday through Friday, April 5 - 19, between 8am - 3:30pm. Please direct any questions or concerns to Mr. Shipley at scott.shipley@mvcsc.k12.in.us.

Virtual Learners' Support - Mrs. Merica, our Virtual Support Teacher, is a terrific resource for students struggling to maximize their online learning. If your student could benefit from tips to help with virtual learning, please contact her at jackie.merica@mvcsc.k12.in.us. Relatedly, the Google Meet times for full time virtual students to have collective learning opportunities with peers are:

6th Grade: Mondays

Integrity: 10:15-10:45

Firebirds: 11:00-11:30

Central Stars: 11:45-12:15

Odyssey: 1:00-1:30

7th grade: Wednesdays

Spirit: 11:45-12:15

Champions: 12:25-12:55

Victory: 1:45-2:15

8th grade: Fridays

Eagles: 10:30-11:00

All Stars: 11:15-11:45

Pride: 2:30-3:00

Short Term E-Learning - Students who have been asked by school Health Officials to be quarantined for a certain number of days need to still be completing their classroom assignments. Short term e-learning students should check their email, Google Classroom, and Canvas daily (at

minimum). Teachers will utilize these three platforms to communicate student work. It would also be helpful to have your student reach out to their teachers via email to verify assignments and remain as fully engaged in the learning process as possible.

Counseling Corner - Students or parents struggling with Pandemic-related challenges are encouraged to utilize The [Parent Guide to Resilience](#) from [whytry.org](#). Remember also, you can follow our counselors for other advice and tips on Instagram [@mvms_counselors](#).

Tech Support and help needed - Please help us monitor Chromebook use and guide your students to take good care of their technology. Thank you. Also, Please remember that MVCSC partners with Ninestar Connect to provide 24-7 technology support to students and parents/guardians assisting their children. Please use the following contact information for help:

Technology Support Phone Number: 317-482-4112

Email: techsupport@mvsc.k12.in.us

NineStar Connect will assist with the technology issue, and if needed, pass the request to the appropriate Mt. Vernon technology assistant to resolve the problem during school hours.

Additional information can be found on the [1:1 Technology Program webpage](#).

Attendance - If your student will be absent, please notify us via with one of these methods:

1. Call 317-485-3160 which is available 24/7.
2. Email brigitte.bussen@mvsc.k12.in.us
3. Once students are at school, they should not be contacting a parent for pickup during the school day. This type of communication needs to proceed from the MVMS School Nurse or Office Staff directly to the Parent. Thank you.

Social Media and Platforms - You can follow MVMS via:

Twitter: [@MtVernon_MS](#)

Twitter for MVMS Sports: [@MVMS_Sports](#)

Instagram: [@Mt.Vernon_MS](#)

Facebook: [MtVernonMiddleSchool](#)

Skyward - Click [HERE](#)

MVMS News - Click [HERE](#)

MVMS Counselor Webpage - Click [HERE](#) *full of many resources for Students & Parents

MVCSC 20-21 School Calendar - Click [HERE](#)

20-21 MVMS Black & Gold Calendar (beginning 2/16/2021) Click [HERE](#)

Substitute Teachers - MVCSC continues to build its pool of Substitute teachers. With our return to the conventional schedule, we anticipate a need for more subs. Those who are

interested and qualify can choose to serve in their building of choice (hint, hint, MVMS is a great and fun place to work!) and earn approximately \$85/day. For more information, click here: www.mvcsc.k12.in.us/employment/6 or schedule a meeting with Kelly Services at rebrand.ly/substitute.

I look forward to a great week of engagement with our students in Team Meetings, DEAR day, and Spring Sports (among other activities). Thank you as always for your support of our educational efforts, in and out of the classroom. Best wishes for a great week ahead -

Mike Raters

Michael P. Raters

Interim Principal

Mt. Vernon Middle School

317-485-3160